



Time for a meeting!

Tuesday, September 3, 2024 at 7:00 PM.

Museum of Arts and Sciences

Come early to chat with the early birds. The Mineral of the month is Gypsum and the rock of the month is tourmaline (schorl) pegmatite. Our speaker for the month is Kim Cochran. He will be speaking on Polynomers which are rocks and minerals with many names ("Many names" the Latin meaning of polynomers). Some examples of polynomers are Aventurine, Jade, and Alabaster with each made up of multiple minerals. So come and find out more about POLYNOMERS.

***** Special Reminder:** The Auction for the Milner Family is August 24 and you must be registered by the 19th to attend. I will call the snail mail people with the address/ directions and I will send out e-mails to those of you who have e-mails. If you are not registered you will not have a bid number, not receive directions from me, and will not be able to participate. Right now (8/12), I have the following people from our club signed up: Jay, Shawn, Susan, Al (+3), Bill/ Pam, Andrew (+4), Helen (+1), Tina, Tate, and Gary. I have over that amount from the GMS.

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Upcoming Events

Meeting	Sept. 03
Juniors Meeting	Sept. 21
Georgia National Fair	Oct. 03- Oct. 13
Meeting- Election	Oct. 07
Junior Meeting	Oct. 26

President's Messages

Hello to all! First off, I would like to thank you all for allowing me to be club president. I have enjoyed the expectation and hope that I have brought some positive changes to the club. I plan on doing several stops along the way of my move to rock hound. I will try to document and photograph my move and try to send a write up for the newsletter if the club is interested. (EDITOR: We are always interested in good locations, pictures, and stories.)

We had a small group get together to fill the 415 grab bags for the fair at the Stuffing Party at Jay's house. It was a good time and plenty of good conversations. There will be an auction on 24th August with over 150+ different lots. If you are interested contact Tina very soon so you will be able to attend. Please remember that you must be a member of our club (Aug 19th) or a member of GMS. Tina and the juniors are working on a display case for UV reactive lighting to be added to the fair and on ornaments for our fossil tree in November at the Museum of Arts and Sciences.

With me stepping down and moving there it is also time to nominate new officers. The position of president is open. The nominating committee (Tina, Jay, and Al) are taking suggestions for president. We need someone to step and help keep the club going. I wish you all a successful life and bountiful rock hounding excursions. Rock on!
 President Shawn



Temporary President Jay (added info):

Hope everyone had a good summer break. If you find any good collecting sites, please let Jay know! Love to have some new digging sites for the club to explore. Frank and Sharon Milner's collection for the Auction contains nice Minerals, Fossils, and Rough/ Slabs along with 14 inch saw and 6-wheel cabbing machine. Also, preformed cabs, tools, jewelry, and much more.

The fair is coming up October 3-13, 2024. This year we were asked and it was sent out by e-mail for you to sign up for days and times. Tina was able to fill the calendar with volunteers. Susan had to submit this by August 15th way earlier than we have in the past. We were also asked to draw up how we wanted out booth to look. Tina did a diagram like what we had three years ago giving us all our usual displays, a front table, and a back table. We do not know what we will have until we go to set up. As soon as we know set-up date and time, we will need some help. It is usually the weekend before the fair. We need specimens for the display cases including our newest UV case. We have five hundred grab bags ready to sale at the fair. We will also need help taking the display down the Tuesday after the fair.

June Meeting Minutes

Club President Shawn Ripley called the June 3, meeting to order at 7:21pm with 21 in attendance.

Adoption of the minutes: The reading of the minutes from the previous meeting to be taken from the newsletter. A motion was made, and the members approved.

Treasurer Report: Susan Hargrove gave bank C.D. and savings balances. She also said the Federation Insurance was paid and the club's first aid kit was purchased.

Programs: Tonight's program will be club members show-n-talk about their favorite rock, rock I.D., rock swap and snacks. September's program tentatively is speaker Kim Cochran.

Field Trips: Jay Batcha said the next club field trip would be tonight in the Museum's new pavilion area rock garden and he had many samples of fossils, agates, and rocks of interest. He also mentioned two DMC digs, one on 6-8 at the Hogg Mine and the other a Fossil Dig in Kentucky on 7-27.

Newsletter: Tina Perkins said the next Newsletter would go out August 15 and she would also be sending out e-mails with information on the August Auction of Tuell Walters remaining collection (**Put on hold to accommodate the family of Frank Milner and do their auction on that date. Tuell's will now be held in the spring**). She also said for members to not open any Emails concerning anyone from the club asking for money saying she and others have received fraudulent ones.

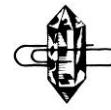
Web Master: Tina mentioned posting pictures on the web page of 415 newly sewn grab bags ready to stuff for the fair. Emma, Katelyn, and Tina got creative and hand dyed some of them with pretty colors.

New Business: Susan talked about the Clubs Booth at the Perry Fair this fall would be in the same spot. Also, members discussed the idea of setting up a blacklight display at the fair. Jay also said there would be a grab bag stuffing at his house June 22, 10-1P.M.

Program: Members had a show-n-tell of their favorite rocks on display giving information on the specimens and where they collected them with some interesting field trip stories.

Jay Batcha was set up with his magnifying headset and microscope identifying rocks and he also had a large collection of free fossils, minerals, and rocks for members to take home. There was a rock swap bucket, and a raffle was held with prizes awarded. Arron Warnock gave a JR Rockhound presentation on learning Minerals with I.D. Kit completing 4 of 10 items. The Jrs. are well on their way to completing their first badge.

Jay invited everyone to collect fossils and interesting rocks at the pavilion gravel garden with many members finding lots of specimens.



After returning to the auditorium everyone enjoyed snacks and looking at the many items on display.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

Respectively submitted by Al Steffanini



**Let's Go
Digging**

**An Official Field Trip of the Gem
and Mineral Society of Lynchburg,
VA (HOST)**

**An Official Field Trip of the Mid.
Georgia Gem and Mineral Society
of Macon, Georgia**

Saturday, September 21, 2024

9:00 AM to 1:00 PM Eastern Time

Willis Mountain Kyanite Mine

Dillwyn, Virginia

Limit: 75 People

**Registration Required (Link is
below)**

Fee: None

COLLECTING: Willis Mountain is what's known as a monadnock. The kyanite exposure resisted weathering and, as the surrounding area was eroded and weathered away, the mountain outcrop was left standing. The center of the mountain has been mostly mined away. We should be able to find plenty of white kyanite blades in the massive kyanite quartzite; pyrite; quartz; hematite with some iridescence, red mica, green mica, apatite, and possibly some blue kyanite and pale green trolleite. Some of the white kyanite and quartz here have a beautiful light blue fluorescence and the

apatite is yellow so bring your shortwave lamp and blackout cloth.

BRING: Standard quarry safety gear is required: hardhat with a manufacturing date of 5 years or less (everyone must have an approved hard hat....no bicycle helmets; small heads can wear a ball cap under the hardhat), high visibility safety vest, safety glasses, respiratory protection from rock dust you may encounter, and a pair of wheel chocks either purchased, homemade or even a rock is acceptable. Every time you leave the car, turn off the engine, put in park and apply the hand brake and wheel chocks. **ONLY STEEL TOED OR REINFORCED COMPOSITE TOED FOOTWEAR WILL BE ALLOWED THIS YEAR.** THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS!!! If you do not have all the required minimum safety equipment, hard hat, safety shoes, and safety glasses, you will not be allowed to enter the quarry. Also required are long pants, gloves, hammer, and chisels, wrapping paper, buckets, and water because it is very important to stay hydrated as it may be very hot. If you have any medical condition that would put you in any danger, do not attempt this trip. For your own safety, let your field trip leader or collecting buddy know if you have any medical condition that could be a problem for you. Be prepared for windy, hot, or wet weather. We will be on the mountain top and it's always windy. We can drive to the designated collecting area, so hand trucks should not be needed. Bring a camera, as the view is awesome.

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS: Everyone must plan to arrive at the office parking lot between 7:30 AM and no later than 8:30 AM to read and sign the updated Liability Form, Hazard Training & Recognition Check List Form, and to hear the mandatory safety briefing before entering the mine at 9AM. Each Club field trip leader, or their appointed replacement, will act as a safety official while in the mine. Every person is expected to be on the lookout for and call immediate attention to any safety



infractions from any collector from any club. Keep in mind that this site is one of the very few that are still open for collecting. Not obeying ALL the safety rules will cause this site to be closed to all future collecting. FEE: There is no fee.

CHILDREN (Yes): There is no age limit, but no toddlers please. All children must be signed for, closely supervised by an adult, and never left unattended. They must also have all the required safety equipment. No Exceptions!!!

PETS (No): No pets allowed; this is an active working quarry.

WEATHER: The trip will be canceled due to safety concerns in case of hard rain or a thunderstorm. Call to confirm if there is any question.

AFTER THE DIG SOCIAL: This year, the pavilion beside the office will be available immediately after the dig ends at 1PM to relax, cool off, and eat your lunch. This will also be a social get together so that we can have a chance to become better acquainted with the members of our rock club neighbors and to provide some time to relax before their long ride home. There may also be other groups there as invited guests of Kyanite Mining.

REGISTRATION: Click [here](#) to fill out a registration form. If you register and are unable to attend the trip, please let us know so we can update the registration list.

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:
Registered participants will be sent a confirmation email with directions and meeting place details.

CONTACTS: James Tomlin, GMSL Club President. Email at tomlin.jamesm@yahoo.com or call him at 434-

258-2886. When sending email, please include your full name and the name of your club.

An Official Field Trip of the Pendleton District Gem and Mineral Society (Seneca, SC) (Host)
An Official Field Trip of the Mid Ga. Gem and Mineral Society

Saturday, September 28, 2024

Sunday, September 29, 2024

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Time

Seneca, SC

No Attendance Limit

Registration Required (link is below)

Fee: \$20



TRIP: This will be a dig on one of our members' own land, as such it has had



very little activity there. There are no tailings available, it's mainly virgin.
COLLECTING: The owner of the property (and a very serious collector) has found epidote, garnet, quartz (in its various forms), quartz arrowheads, actinolite, hematite, magnetite, and other iron minerals.

BRING: This is basically pasture land with a few trees thrown in so no mountaineering equipment is needed, just the standard shovel and pick and screen stuff. Muddiness is entirely dependent on the weather. Clothes, footwear and mosquito repellent is up to you. Bring safety glasses if you want to break rocks.

REQUIREMENTS: This is private property, so please be respectful of the owner and the property.

FEE: \$20 per person.

REGISTRATION: Click [here](#) to fill out a registration form. If you register and are unable to attend the trip, **please be considerate** to your host and let the contact person know so he can have an accurate head count.

CHILDREN: Yes, but as per common sense: you're the custodian, not us..

PETS: No, unless you want to keep them in your car with it running and the AC on, so essentially **NO**.

FACILITIES: There will be an upscale porta-potty on site (with a sink) and easy parking.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Clemson University is very close, so there are

many hotels/motels available in Clemson and in nearby towns.

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET: Registered participants will be sent a confirmation email with directions and meeting place details.

CARPOOLING: The registration form has a place for you to indicate if you need a ride; if you can offer a ride; or if you would like to drive or share a carpool ride. If you choose any of these options, your name, email address, and club name will be shared with other members who also choose one of the options. Then, you can communicate with one another to arrange carpools.

CONTACT: John Palmer, charon13.5@gmail.com, 864-557-5958, just leave a message in case I've put my phone down and forgotten where.

Shows

As always check before you go to make sure everything is a go for the show.

FYI- the Denver show is from September 6-September 16, 2024.

Atlanta Jewelry Show
August 24-26, 2024
Cobb Galleria Centre
2 Galleria Parkway
Atlanta, Georgia 30339

Bellpoint Gem Show
August 23-25, 2024
Cobb County Civic Center
548 Marietta Parkway SE



Marietta, Georgia 30060

Alabama Mineral and Lapidary Society
 Sept. 6-8, 2024
 Irondale Civic Center
 3521 Ratliff Road
 Irondale, AL. 35210
 10-6 Friday and Saturday
 10-4 Sunday
 Adults \$5; Teens \$3, 12 and under free
lapidaryclub.com

Central Florida Mineral and Gem Society

September 7-8, 2024
 National Guard Armory
 2809 South Ferncreek Ave.
 Orlando, FL. 32806
 September 7: 9-5
 September 8: 9-4

Adults \$6; Children 6-15 \$3.00

Enjoy demonstrations, door prizes, silent auctions, and kid's activities. Also have vendor tables to purchase gemstones, crystals, minerals, unique beads, handmade jewelry, fossils artifacts, and metaphysical stones.

Schedule of Minerals, Rocks, and Fossils for 2024-2025

Date	Mineral	Rock	Fossil
9/3	Gypsum	Tourmaline Pegmatite	
10/7	Bauxite		Petrified wood
11/4	Apatite	Metaquartzite	
2/3	Jadeite		Coral (can be a beach find)
3/3	Malachite	Mudstone	
4/7	Garnierite		Ferns
5/5	Borax	Concretion (septarian or non-septarian)	
6/2	Bring	your favorite	specimen

Mineral of the Month

Gypsum



Gypsum from Romania
Mindat.org

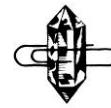
Gypsum is a hydrated calcium sulfate. It can take on various forms that have unique shapes. The crystal above is considered clear and tabular and can get up to 3.3 feet in length and resemble swallowtails or spearhead twins. Transparent crystals and cleaved fragments are Selenite. One of the most notable shapes is the Desert Rose. The rosette shaped aggregate often contains sand grains of a reddish color.



Desert Rose
Mindat.org
 Chihuahua, Mexico

Granular and compact waxy-looking masses are sometime banded forming alabaster. Gypsum comes in colors of gray, yellow, white and brown with the exception of the Desert Rose which is reddish. Gypsum is 2 on the Mohs hardness scale. It is relatively light. It can cleave into slightly flexible but not elastic plates and flakes. It is mostly transparent with a vitreous or silky luster. It will sometimes fluoresce in UV light. Gypsum is formed by evaporation by precipitation from saline waters or by sublimation in fumaroles and precipitants from hot springs.

Giant crystals have been found in Bologna and Pavia, Italy, in Chihuahua, Mexico, in Utah in the USA and in Chile. Beautiful Desert Roses have been found in



Tunisia, Morocco, Arizona, and New Mexico. In Paris, Nova Scotia, Uzbekistan, and Pisa, and in New York, Michigan, Iowa, Texas, and California stratified deposits have been worked extensively. Gypsum has many uses but most of us are familiar with sheetrock and plaster of Paris. It is used as a retarder in Portland Cement, as a flux for pottery, as a fertilizer, and in the case of alabaster in interior decorating and sculpture.

Rock of the Month

Tourmaline Pegmatite

This is a hypabyssal igneous rock that has felsic properties. It is essentially Quartz, alkaline feldspar (orthoclase), mica and tourmaline. Color can vary because of accessory pigments and in this case, it is going to be have black (schorl) tourmaline.



Sample from member's collection containing clear quartz, feldspar, and schorl tourmaline.

Its appearance can have texture produced by intergrowth of large, almost idiomorphic crystals, more rarely graphically intergrown, which can be zoned with cavities which can be druses lined with crystals. This is associated with granitic and syenitic plutons as large veins. Some of the most notable in the world occur in Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, South Dakota, and Colorado in the USA and in Brazil at Minas Gerais, the Kola Peninsula in Russia, and in the Malagasy Republic.

Pegmatites are of use for extraction of various minerals including but not limited to feldspar, muscovite mica, and beryl. In Georgia they can be found in Cherokee, Troup, Upson, DeKalb, and others.

Junior Meeting

September 21, 2024 from 10-11:30 at Tina's house. I will have plenty for you to work on so

don't wear your best clothes because you may get a little messy. Mark your calendars also for October 26, 2024. I would also like to thank Linda Bowden (club member) who gave a rock collection and books to the me so I could give them out to the junior members and the rock club I will be doing at an elementary school this year. It is much appreciated.

Member Update

Tuell is still in rehab at Warner Robins Rehab and would love to have visitors. Stop by with a couple of rocks and he will tell you all about them.

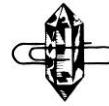
Pictures from the June Meeting



Jay and Tim going over some items.



Some members brought many of their beautiful treasure to discuss with others.



Gravel recently delivered to the museum contained marine fossils and everyone was ready to hunt the items.



After the fossil hunting everyone milling around looking at all the items and feasting on snacks. Thanks to all who brought items to share and snacks to eat.

Nominations Committee will be getting ready for the elections in October. As of now we have Susan as Treasurer, Al as Secretary and Jay as Vice President. Jay will be acting president for the September and October meetings since Shawn is taking a job up north (see May meeting minutes for his resignation after June meeting). If you would like to be president please let Tina, Jay or Al know before the September Meeting or else someone will get voluntold as Jay said happened to him one year.

New Geological Epoch

Anyone who follows geology and even paleontology has probably heard of the idea of creating a new geological epoch called the Anthropocene (Man's Impacts on Planet Earth). When I was still teaching in 2000, I went to a conference and heard about this

proposal. Here in 2024 they are now in the final steps to make this new Epoch a reality. This epoch reflects how humans have changed the earth. My first thoughts were on new atoms formed in the laboratory that had been put in the periodic table. My second of course was the splitting of the atom and all the nuclear tests that went on underground in the USA and above ground tests on the Bikini Islands and other places. The proposed date was 1950 at the height of the atomic tests. Traces of this endeavor to develop the ultimate weapon can be found all around the world. A site is then chosen for the start of the epoch and a golden spike is hammered into the ground. The site that won the golden spike award is Crawford Lake. A sediment core from the lake contains plutonium which has also been detected in coral reefs, ice cores, and peat bogs from nuclear testing. If approved by 60% of the committee, the Quaternary Period of earth's history will now have three epochs; the Pleistocene, the Holocene (11,700 years ago to 1950, and the Anthropocene (1950-?). As of the writing of this news letter we are 74 years, 8 months, and 13 days into the Anthropocene. If you want to read more see the links below.

[Anthropocene: Scientists say they've found a site that marks a new chapter in Earth's history | CNN](https://www.cnn.com/2024/07/18/science/anthropocene-scientists-fossil-site/index.html)

[Anthropocene - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthropocene)

Editor

Festival of Trees Announcement



Don't forget we need decorations for the "Fossil Tree" we are doing this year. The Jrs. have been working on it with shark's teeth. If



you can donate ornaments for the tree talk to Jay or Tina since they usually do the decorating.

Mid-Georgia Gem Clips
Official Bulletin of Mid-Georgia
Gem and Mineral Society
Macon, Georgia

The Club meets on the First Monday of each Month, at The Museum of Arts and Sciences, in Macon, Georgia at 7:00 PM.

Except: No meeting January, July, and August. The annual Christmas Party is the first Monday in December. September the first Tuesday of the Month

Purpose: To promote the earth sciences, the lapidary arts, and the collection, study and display of rocks, minerals, and fossils; to promote the public awareness of these efforts in educational and recreational activities.

Club Officers:

President: Shawn Ripley, phone: 509-499-5946
ripleystudio@yahoo.com

Vice Pres./ Programs/ Field Trips: Jay Batcha, 4220 Cyndy Jo Circle, Macon, Ga. 31216, ph. 478-957-5002 rocky1s@yahoo.com

Secretary: Al Steffanini, ph. 478-396-4279,
aldosteffanini@hotmail.com

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aswarnock@gmail.com

Field Trip Helper: Tim Brotzge.
tim.brotzge@gmail.com 770-772-8644

Web Master/ Facebook: Pam Mayer,
pam5mayer@gmail.com

Mid Ga. Gem and Mineral Society
Application for Membership

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Adult (18-64) \$15.00 Junior \$ 5.00
Family (2 adults and 2 children under 18) \$25.00
Additional children \$5.00

Seniors (65+) \$10.00 Newsletter mailed \$5.00

New _____ Renewal _____

E-mail _____

Address _____

How did you hear about us?

Circle your interest(s):

Gems and Minerals Lapidary Fossils

Education Rocks

Make checks payable to:
Mid-Georgia Gem & Mineral Society
Mail to the Treasurer (listed on this page) or
bring to a meeting.



Mid-Georgia Gem Clips

**Official Bulletin of Mid-Georgia Gem
and Mineral Society**
Macon, Georgia

**Member of Southeast Federation of
Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies**
**Member of American Federation of
Mineralogical Societies**



Mid-Georgia Gem Clips

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